

## Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of the Claims will replace all prior listings and versions of the Claims in the application.

### Listing of the Claims

- 1 1. (currently amended) A method for managing healthcare data which allows a  
2 multiplicity of healthcare users to assemble a virtual healthcare clinic, the method  
3 comprising the ~~aets~~ steps of:
  - 4 a) providing a central data base system capable of holding a multiplicity of  
5 health records, pertaining to a multiplicity of patients, wherein said  
6 database system is accessible through at least one ~~public~~ network  
7 connection;
  - 8 b) enrolling a plurality of healthcare practitioners to create a plurality of  
9 enrolled healthcare practitioners, wherein enrolling a healthcare  
10 practitioner comprises providing the healthcare practitioner with software  
11 operable on a computer system for reading information from medical  
12 portable access devices and writing treatment information including  
13 medical prescriptions, to said medical portable access devices, to a  
14 pharmacy directly by electronic mail and to the central database, and  
15 sending and receiving electronic mail, and interacting with the central data  
16 base over the at least one network connection;
  - 17 c) enrolling a plurality of pharmacies to create a plurality of enrolled  
18 pharmacies, wherein enrolling a pharmacy comprises providing the  
19 pharmacy with software operable on a computer system for reading  
20 healthcare information including medical prescriptions written by one of  
21 the plurality of enrolled healthcare practitioners from said medical  
22 portable access devices, reading medical prescriptions from the central  
23 database and reading medical prescriptions from electronic mail, reading a  
24 bar-code from a container containing a medicine and determining the  
25 identity of the medicine from the bar-code, comparing a medical  
26 prescription with the identity of the medicine, for and if the identity of the  
27 medicine agrees with the medical prescription, writing a confirmation that  
28 a the medical prescription has been properly filleddispensed to one of said  
29 medical portable access devices, and transmitting ~~ana~~ direct electronic  
30 message to the one of said plurality of enrolled healthcare practitioners  
31 who wrote the medical prescription that the medical prescription was  
32 properly filled, and updating the central database that the medical  
33 prescription was properly dispensed;
  - 34 d) enrolling a patient member;
  - 35 e) providing said patient member with a medical portable access device;
  - 36 f) programming said medical portable access device provided to said  
37 member with healthcare information relevant to said patient member and  
38 only said patient member;

39 g) synchronizing the healthcare information on said medical portable access  
40 devices with the healthcare information contained in said central data  
41 base; and  
42 h) repeating acts (d), (e), (f) and (g) for a ~~plurality~~multiplicity of patient  
43 members creating a ~~plurality~~multiplicity of enrolled patient members  
44 each having a medical portable access device, and wherein any of the  
45 multiplicity of enrolled patient members may interact with any  
46 combination of enrolled healthcare practitioners and enrolled pharmacies,  
47 whereby by an each of the multiplicity of enrolled patient members can  
48 create a virtual clinic of healthcare providers by choosing enrolled  
49 healthcare practitioners and enrolled pharmacies and presenting the  
50 portable access device provided to the member for updating at healthcare  
51 treatments and prescription fulfillment.

1 2. (currently amended)The method of claim 1 further comprising the act of  
2 providing a ~~plurality~~ the multiplicity of patient members with software operable  
3 on a computer system for reading the contents of their medical portable access  
4 device, and writing updated information on the medical portable access device.

1 3. (currently amended)The method of claim 21 wherein ~~each~~ the multiplicity of  
2 medical personal access devices is a comprise smart cards.

1 4. (currently amended) The method of claim 31 further comprising providing  
2 enrolled healthcare practitioners, and enrolled pharmacies, ~~and enrolled patient~~  
3 ~~members with software functionality for optional connection to the central~~  
4 ~~database system during use of a portable access device, and wherein the~~  
5 healthcare information in the central database pertaining to an enrolled patient  
6 member is automatically synchronized with the enrolled member's portable  
7 access device approximately contemporaneously with writing to the personal  
8 access device if the central database is optionally connected, whenever the  
9 enrolled member's portable access device is accessed by either a pharmacy  
10 computer system or practitioner computer which is connected to the central data  
11 base during access, whereby the central database contains a backup for the  
12 portable access devices and has up-to-date information.

1 5. (currently amended)The method of claim 4 further comprising providing software  
2 functionality to enrolled pharmacies which causes an enrolled pharmacy to send  
3 an electronic confirmation to a healthcare provider and to send an electronic  
4 confirmation to the central data base when the enrolled pharmacy fulfills a  
5 prescription prescribed by the health provider. The method of claim 1, wherein  
6 the plurality of enrolled healthcare practitioners comprise representatives from at  
7 least three professions chosen from the group consisting of chiropractors,  
8 optometrists, dentists, psychologists, opticians, herbalists, podiatrists, and  
9 opticians.

1 6. (currently amended) The method of claim 5 further comprising providing software  
2 enrolled healthcare practitioners; and enrolled pharmacies, ~~and enrolled patient~~  
3 ~~members~~ with software functionality for authenticating the identity of users by a  
4 biometric measurement.

1 7-18 (Cancelled)

1 19. (currently amended) A healthcare information system comprising:  
2 a) a central data base system comprising a central data base containing  
3 healthcare information pertaining to a ~~plurality~~ multiplicity of patients,  
4 said central data base system accessible ~~by~~ on at least one external  
5 network connection;  
6 b) a ~~plurality~~ multiplicity of medical portable access devices, wherein each of  
7 said ~~plurality~~ multiplicity of patients has at least one medical portable  
8 access device;  
9 c) a plurality of healthcare practitioner computer systems, each healthcare  
10 practitioner computer system comprising a device for reading and writing  
11 to any of said ~~plurality~~ multiplicity of medical portable access devices, an  
12 external network communication connection, and software operating said  
13 healthcare practitioner computer system, comprising functionality for  
14 reading healthcare information pertaining to a patient from said medical  
15 portable access devices, writing a record of treatment to said medical  
16 portable access devices, writing a prescription to ~~anyone~~ of said plurality  
17 of medical portable access devices, and sending at least one electronic  
18 message on the external network when a prescription is written to a  
19 portable access device; and  
20 d) a plurality of pharmacy computer systems, each pharmacy computer  
21 system comprising a device for reading and writing to any of said plurality  
22 of medical portable access devices, an external communication  
23 connection, ~~and a barcode reader, and~~ software operating said pharmacy  
24 computer system, comprising functionality for reading healthcare  
25 information pertaining to a patient from said medical portable access  
26 devices, reading a prescription for a prescribed medicine from said  
27 medical portable access devices, reading a prescription for a prescribed  
28 medicine from a direct electronic message, reading a prescription a  
29 prescribed medicine from the central database reading a barcode on a  
30 package of medicine, determining the identity of the medicine from the  
31 barcode, comparing the identity of the medicine with the prescribed  
32 medicine, if the identity of the medicine and the prescribed medicine are  
33 identical, writing automatically sending a direct electronic confirmation  
34 over the network to an enrolled healthcare practitioner that a prescription  
35 has been properly filled dispensed and decrementing a refills counter  
36 pertaining to a filled prescription to said portable access devices, and  
37 sending at least one electronic message when a prescription is fulfilled.

- 1 20. (currently amended) The healthcare information system of claim 19 further  
2 comprising a ~~plurality~~multiplicity of patient computer systems, each patient  
3 computer system comprising a device for reading and writing to any of said  
4 plurality of medical portable access devices, an external communication  
5 connection, and software operating said patient computer system, comprising  
6 functionality for reading healthcare information pertaining to a patient from said  
7 portable access devices, and writing updated health history information to said  
8 portable access devices.
- 1 21. (currently amended) The healthcare information system of claim 20 wherein said  
2 healthcare provider computer systems, said pharmacy computer systems and said  
3 patient computer systems further comprise software functionality for optional  
4 connection to said central database system, obtaining information from said  
5 central database system, and synchronizing a portable access device to the central  
6 database system automatically whenever the portable access device is accessed  
7 while a computer system is connected to the central database system.
- 1 22. (original) The healthcare information system of claim 21 wherein said healthcare  
2 provider computer systems, said pharmacy computer systems, and said patient  
3 computer systems further comprise a biometric measurement device for  
4 authenticating users.
- 1 23. (currently amended) ~~The healthcare information system of claim 24<sup>2</sup> wherein the~~  
2 ~~database system further comprises software functionality for synchronizing~~  
3 ~~information between a portable access device and the central database when a~~  
4 ~~portable access device is accessed by a computer system which is connected to~~  
5 ~~the central database. healthcare provider computer systems comprise functionality~~  
6 ~~requiring biometric authentication before accessing a medical portable access~~  
7 ~~device.~~
- 1 24. (currently amended) The healthcare information of claim 22 wherein said  
2 healthcare provider computer systems, said pharmacy computer systems, and said  
3 patient computer systems further comprise software functionality for  
4 ~~authenticating~~ requiring biometric identification of a user using said biometric  
5 measurement device prior to use
- 1 25-31 (cancelled).
- 1 32. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein a plurality healthcare practitioners are  
2 unrelated except for being enrolled.
- 1 33. (new) The method of claim 5, wherein prescriptions contain the digital signature  
2 of a healthcare practitioner.